



February 20, 2014

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of support for Jacob Pusey in his quest to secure the Osher Reentry Scholarship at the University of Oregon. I had the rewarding opportunity to have Jacob as a student in three of my history courses at Lane Community College over three terms during the 2012/2013 academic year. He received high grades in what proved to be very challenging courses and was clearly a top in all three classes.

Jacob exhibits a sense of responsibility not common enough in this day and age. Not only did he attend my HST203 class regularly, but he always came prepared for the day's lesson. He is a self-motivated student, and took the time to introduce himself to me after class. Having taught many students over my career, I can honestly say that Jacob's genuine desire to succeed will make him among the most exemplary candidates for future excellence.

Jacob has excellent interactive skills, both in the classroom and online. He is conscientious about his own performance, yet is thoughtful in dealing with others. This was illustrated time and again when I had my online and hybrid classes discuss controversial historical topics, such as American nativism, propaganda, Vietnam, civil rights, and race relations in online, web-based forums, where students often forget how to respectfully and constructively interact with one another in a written format. Jacob can actively listen to others, even when he disagrees with their position. He can give credit where it is due and can stand his ground, providing facts and logical support for his views.

On a final note, I have briefly spoken with Jacob about his academic and professional past. He returns to a college career after years working in construction. I am guessing that the 19 year old version of Jacob was significantly different than the student who is applying for this reentry scholarship today. With the wisdom that only time can provide and a new sense of purpose, he has re-entered the academic world and has performed splendidly. At Lane Community College, we must accept every student who comes through our doors. The University of Oregon has much more rigorous academic standards. The community college should be a place that can serve as a "proving ground" for students who have a situation similar to the one Jacob has, who've been away from school for a number of years but decide to return. I am hopeful that the University of Oregon can also give "older and wiser" students such as Jacob a new opportunity to perform well.

I consider Jacob Pusey to be a prime candidate for success in his continuing education and any future career he chooses. I recommend him without reservation. Jacob is not only a qualified to continue his studies at the University of Oregon, but more likely, a *preferred* candidate for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Escobar", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Escobar
History Instructor
Lane Community College